

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

DIE TYPISCHEN OPERATIONEN UND IHRE UEBUNG AN DER LEICHE mit specieller Berücksichtigung der topographischen Anatomie, sowie der Bedürfnisse der praktischer und Feldartzes. Von Dr. EMIL ROTTER, Stabsarzt, etc., Munich: J. A. Finsterlin, 1887. (New York, G. E. Stechert).

THE TYPICAL SURGICAL OPERATIONS, AND THEIR PRACTICE ON THE CADAVER, with special regard to surgical anatomy, adapted to the wants of the general practitioner and military surgeon. By Dr. EMIL ROTTER.

The contents of this little book, of 235 pages small octavo, is fully described in the title.

It gives, in as concise a manner as is compatible with completeness, a description of the mode of performing each recognized typical surgical operation, prefaced by a detailed review of the topographical anatomy of the region in question, and followed by a description of the anatomical aspect of the wound after performance of the operation and before its closure with sutures. In addition to this a few casual remarks relating to indications and clinical and statistical data are frequently given in fine print, while the chief characteristic features of each operation, are premised in one or two lines immediately below the title of each operation. This arrangement at once marks the practical character of the book, and demonstrates the extended connection of the author with an operative course upon the cadaver.

In the introduction the writer pleads for the more extensive use of subjects, on which post-mortem examinations are performed by practising physicians, for the purpose of exercising surgical operations. He would have the opening of the thorax commenced with a typical tracheotomy, and typical surgical exsections of the joints performed on cadavers of patients dying of articular rheumatism.

Whatever may be thought of these propositions, they will at least indicate the point of view from which the book was written.

As to the material treated of, a judicious selection of operative methods has been made; two methods of exarticulation of the hip are given, both commencing with posterior incisions, while other methods are casually referred to in the notes. Ten methods of amputations and exarticulations touching the foot are given.

The book is well up to date in the matter of nerve and tendon-sutures, resections of the intestines, etc.

Several fair wood-cuts are inserted in the text illustrating anatomical or surgical statements.

W. W. VAN ARSDALE.

UEBER DIE PRINCIPIEN DES ZEITGEMAESSEN KRIEGSWUND VERBANDES.
Von Dr. C. LANGENBUCH, Sanitätsrath, etc. Berlin: Aug. Hirschwald, 1887. (New York, G. E. Stechert).

ON THE PRINCIPLES OF MILITARY SURGICAL DRESSINGS AT THE PRESENT TIME. By Dr. C. LANGENBUCH.

A pamphlet, 33 pages in length, containing propositions for the treatment of wounds in time of war founded upon the author's experience at Sofia during the recent Servian and Bulgarian war.

In accordance with other recent writers on the same subject, the author is in favor of the application of an antiseptic dry dressing, or at least of antiseptic tamponade, of all the wounds on the battle field itself immediately after or during action. These dressings should not again be interfered with unless indications arise. Operations, however, on the field should be restricted to primary life-saving ones, to constrictions after Esmarch, and to immobilizing limbs for transportation.

On the other hand, he would not have iodoform or dry dressings used if the wound proves infected, but generous absorbent dressings after free opening and draining of the wounds.

He recommends the use of starched gauze bandages with splints instead of plaster-of-Paris.

The most striking feature in the pamphlet is the admission to military surgical practice of the recent reaction against iodoform begun by scientific experiments.

W. W. VAN ARSDALE.

DIE CHIRURGISCHE BEHANDLUNG DES KROPFES. Von Dr. ANTON WÖLFLE, Professor der chirurgie zu Graz. Berlin, 1887: Aug. Hirschwald. (New York, G. E. Stechert).

THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OF GOITRE. By Dr. ANTON WÖLFLE, Professor of Surgery at Graz.

This genially-written book, of about 90 pages large octavo, contains a complete history of the surgical treatment of goitre from the earliest ages to 1886. There is not a name connected with a surgical operation upon goitre that is not mentioned or treated of at length, while a complete list of all publications on the subject may be found in the foot-notes on each page.